

Message Text

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S/S:MR. GAMMON

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APEARING IN THE NEW YORK TIMES
DECEMBER 11 IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
BEGIN TEXT:

KISSINGER IS "STAR" AT NATO PARLEY BY BERNARD GWERTZMAN.

A HUNGARIAN JOURNALIST ASKED AN AMERICAN TODAY IF SECRE-
TARY OF STATE KISSINGER WOULD HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE WHILE
IN BRUSSELS. WHEN HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY, THE
HUNGARIAN REPLIED: "BUT I CAME FROM BUDAPEST ONLY TO SEE
KISSINGER. DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT THE NATO MEETING?"

MR. KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL FOR THE MEETING OF THE NORTH
ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION WAS CLEARLY THE CHIEF FOCUS
NOT ONLY FOR HUNGARIAN JOURNALISTS BY FOR NEWSMEN AND
DIPLOMATS FROM AMERICA AND ALL OVER EUROPE. HIS VERY
PRESENCE SEEMED TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM HE MAIN ISSUES
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OF THE CONFERENCE. "HE'S A REAL STAR, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT,"

A BELGIAN OFFICIAL SAID IN ADMIRATION.

THE SECRETARY WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK 14TH IN THE LIST OF 17 TODAY. NORMALLY, THIS WOULD HAVE DELAYED HIS REMARKS

UNTIL THE EARLY EVENING. BUT THE 13 SPEAKERS WHO PRECEDED HIM COMPLETED THEIR SPEECHES BY 1 P.M., PROBABLY A RECORD FOR NATO BREVITY, ONE VETERAN DIPLOMAT SAID, "SO THEY COULD ALL HEAR HENRY FIRST THING AFTER LUNCH." ANTICIPATION FOR MR. KISSINGER'S NATO SPEECH HAD BEEN BUILDING UP FOR WEEKS. ONE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT SAID IT REMINDED HIM OF THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING A HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT. "THE EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO A BLOODY SLUGFEST BETWEEN KISSINGER AND THE REST OF NATO," HE SAID.

WHAT THEY GOT, HOWEVER, WAS A RATHER CONSTRUCTIVE, RESTRAINED ADDRESS, IN WHICH MR. KISSINGER SAID THE USUAL THINGS ABOUT THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE AND JABBED THE ALLIES ONLY FOR THEIR DISAGREEMENTS WITH WASHINGTON.

BUT THE NEWSMEN GOT THEIR "FIGHT" AFTER ALL. JUST AS THE LAST BUS WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE PRESS CENTER FOR DOWNTOWN BRUSSELS, WORD SPREAD QUICKLY: MICHEL JOBERT, THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, AND MR. KISSINGER HAD HAD A SHARP EXCHANGE AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

NEWSMEN SCURRIED AROUND TRYING TO FIND DIPLOMATS WHO HAD WITNESSED THE CLASH. GERMANS, CANADIANS AND BELGIANS PROVIDED EYEWITNESS DETAILS THAT DID NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND WITH EACH OTHER. THE OFFICIAL NATO SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD BEEN A "CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE," AND FOR A LONG TIME THE AMERICAN SIDE REFUSED TO COMMENT, ALLOWING THE FRENCH TO MAKE WHATEVER POINTS THEY WANTED.

BUT WHILE THE PRESS WAS REPORTING THE CLASH, MR. JOBERT AND MR. KISSINGER WERE PLANNING TO HAVE BREAKFAST TOMORROW..

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DESPITE MR. KISSINGER'S PREEMINENCE HERE, FEW NEWSMEN HAVE SEEN HIM SINCE HE GOT OFF HIS AIR FORCE 707 JET PLANE ON SATURDAY NIGHT. HE HAS WORKED IN A 16TH FLOOR SUITE IN THE HILTON HOTEL ON EITHER STATE DEPARTMENT MATTERS OR THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS HE PLANS TO DELIVER IN LONDON ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT. THE REST OF THE TIME HE HAS BEEN SHUTTLEING BACK AND FORTH IN HIS LIMOUSINE EITHER TO THE TREATY ORGANIZATION'S HEADQUARTERS

FOR CONFERENCE BUSINESS OR TO THE RESIDENCES OF OTHER
DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS FOR PRIVATE TALKS.

AT NATO, HE AND THE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE EFFECTIVE-
LY SEALED OFF FROM MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, WHO CAN ONLY

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RECEIVE ACCOUNTS OF WHAT THEY HAVE TALKED ABOUT FROM
VARIOUS SPOKESMEN.

PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE SEEN MR. KISSINGER, HOWEVER, AND ONE
OF THEM REPORTED THAT DURING ONE PICTURE-TAKING SESSION,
THE SECRETARY JOKED WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHERS: "PLEASE DO
SOMETHING TO MAKE ME LOOK THINNER."

MR. KISSINGER, A MAN NOT KNOWN FOR HIS LACK OF VANITY,
HAS CLEARLY BEEN PUTTING ON WEIGHT LATELY. WHEN ASKED
RECENTLY WHY THIS HAD HAPPENED, HE REPLIED THAT HE TENDED
TO EAT MORE WHEN INVOLVED IN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS.
"THE WAY IT'S GOING WITH THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS," HE
JOKED, "I'LL BE 360 POUNDS BEFORE WE GET A SETTLEMENT."

THE MEN AROUND MR. KISSINGER REPORT THAT HE IS AN
INTENSELY EMOTIONAL PERSON, NOT COOL AND ALOOF AS FOREIGN
MINISTERS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE. IN PRIVATE, HE SAYS WHAT
IS ON HIS MIND, AND HE IS NOT ADVERSE TO SALTING HIS
LANGUAGE.

HE IS PARTICULARLY DEMANDING OF PERSONS WHO DRAFT THINGS
FOR HIM TO SIGN OR TO SAY. "HENRY ONCE SAID, 'WHAT
IMBECILE DID THAT?' AND I KNEW HE MEANT ME," ONE AIDE
SAID. "BUT I DIDN'T GET UP TIGHT BECAUSE I KNEW THAT IF
I WAS AN IMBECILE HE WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO WORK FOR HIM."
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